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The Stated International Congress.

The Massachusetts Legislature has given its unanimous approval of the proposition for a Stated International Congress, as presented to it in the Memorial of the American Peace Society, which we gave in full in our last issue.

The Memorial was presented in the lower House of the Legislature by Hon. Robert Homans, of Boston, for the American Peace Society, on the 16th of January, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, a joint committee of the House and Senate.

This Committee, of which Senator Henry R. Skinner of Watertown is chairman, gave a hearing on the Memorial on the 11th of February, when the subject was presented and explained by the President and Secretary of the American Peace Society, members of the Board of Directors of the Society, and other influential friends of the movement. The members of the Committee showed great interest in the subject.

At the same hearing also was presented the subject of a world-legislature, which had come over from the

last Assembly, and had also been introduced anew in a fresh memorial signed by more than seven hundred prominent people of the State. This subject was presented by Mr. Raymond L. Bridgman, a prominent journalist, to whose initiative and untiring efforts much of the credit of what has been accomplished is due.

The Committee took the whole subject presented in the two memorials under consideration, and on the 18th of February Hon. Charles L. Underhill, Representative from Somerville, for the Committee, reported to the House the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States be requested to authorize the President of the United States to invite the governments of the world to join in establishing, in whatever way they may judge expedient, a regular international congress, to meet at stated periods, to deliberate upon the various questions of common interest to the nations and to make recommendations thereon to the governments.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the senior Senator and the senior Representative of Massachusetts in Congress, to be presented in their respective branches.

On the next day these resolutions were unanimously adopted by the House. On the 24th of February they were sent to the Senate, and on the 25th were passed by that body also unanimously.

The subject will now go to the National Legislature at Washington, where it will be introduced by the presentation of these resolutions after the opening of the first session of Congress next winter.

The favorable action of the Massachusetts Legislature, of course, settles nothing as to the ultimate disposition of the proposition. But it gives the subject public standing, and sends it forward with the weight which attaches to the action of an old and distinguished legislative body like that of Massachusetts. There is reason to believe that when the proposition reaches Congress it will have the very general and probably unanimous support of the Massachusetts Senators and Representatives.

During the months between now and the opening of the next Congress steps will be taken to bring the subject in proper form to the attention not only of the members of Congress, but also of public men everywhere throughout the country. In this the coöperation and help of all our members and friends throughout the nation will be needed. Printed copies of the Memorial of the American Peace

Society to the Massachusetts Legislature, incorporating the action of the Legislature thereon, may be had on application to the Society's office. Let there be an active campaign everywhere in behalf of this next great step forward in the development of the federation and peace of the world.

Favorable Reception of the Proposition for a Regular International Congress.

The proposition for a regular congress of representatives of the nations of the world, of the type outlined in the American Peace Society's Memorial to the Massachusetts Legislature, has met with unexpectedly large and cordial favor. Wherever the character of it has been clearly and fully grasped, approval has been in almost every case immediate and pronounced. The only question raised about it, and that by comparatively few persons,—that special congresses of the kind heretofore held are better,—was dealt with in our last issue.

That the proposition should have gone, with no opposition whatever, through the Massachusetts Legislature, composed of two hundred and eighty members, in the hands of every one of whom a copy of the memorial was placed, is sufficiently extraordinary, considering the nature of the subject. It was expected that a portion of them, at any rate, would consider the scheme wholly chimerical and oppose it.

Outside of the Legislature, in the State and in the country at large, approval of the idea has been quite as generous, wherever it has come to the knowledge of the thoughtful people of the nation. It seems certain now to be generally indorsed as fast as it becomes known. We quote a few expressions of opinion, on the part of individuals and of the press, in addition to those given last month:

The Boston *Transcript*, in an editorial notice immediately after the action of the Legislature, says: "Upon the undoubted merits of this movement we have several times commented. Of course this action settles nothing, but it initiates, strongly and cordially, a movement which we trust will eventually attain the purpose outlined. It puts Massachusetts on record in the right way, and is renewed evidence of progress toward a regulation of the world's affairs by mutual consent and by peaceful methods. *The Legislature has not done a better piece of work this session.*"

The Boston *Beacon* says: "In no way could our government manifest to the world more clearly its sincere purpose to deal justly with all nations than by adopting the suggestion of the American Peace Society and inviting the different governments to unite in the establishment of an international congress, to meet at stated intervals."

The *Watchman*, while declaring that the average

legislator takes no real interest in such matters, speaks thus: "It can hardly be denied that the indications are more auspicious than ever before in modern times for the successful establishment of such a congress. The idea of international arbitration has prevailed beyond the expectation of many of its most sanguine advocates. The inauguration of the Hague Tribunal was a long step in advance, and perhaps that work may yet be regarded as one of the most signal achievements of the marvelous nineteenth century. . . . In a large sense it may be said that the Hague Tribunal logically anticipates and assumes the existence of such an international congress as the background of its international judication. Certainly such a congress would be the most effective aid to the Tribunal."

The *Christian Intelligencer* says that the reasons given by the American Peace Society for its proposition are "cogent."

Joshua L. Baily, a distinguished business man of Philadelphia, says: "The general purpose and scope of your proposition commends itself to my approval." So also writes President Thwing of Western Reserve University.

Professor A. M. Elliott of Johns Hopkins University writes: "I am thoroughly in accord with the sentiment of the Memorial that the time has arrived when such congress may be held at regular intervals; and shall be greatly pleased to call the attention of all my friends to this important step forward in the right direction."

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the most representative woman in America, writes as follows: "The Memorial of the American Peace Society to the Massachusetts Legislature, proposing that it take the initiative in establishing regular international congresses, fills me with gladness and hope. No recent movement in the interest of the world's peace seems so promising and so certain to meet with general favor. . . . The Hague Peace Conference has familiarized the people, as no previous occurrence has done, with the blessed efficacy of international congresses in settling controversies among nations that might otherwise be fomented into war. And the time is opportune for the establishment of a permanent and regular international congress, whose influence will make for friendliness among the nations, the expansion of the present narrow, petty nationalism into a broad and enlightened cosmopolitanism, and the cultivation of peace—the peace of the world."

Washington's Anti-Militarism.

George Washington, whose birthday the people have just been again celebrating, was not only the first citizen of the country after it had returned to a state of peace, but he was one of the first in the nation to throw his weighty influence on the side of the abolition of militarism and war.